

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220**FOR FURTHER ACTION**
See paragraph 2 belowInternational application No.
PCT/EP2004/002512International filing date (day/month/year)
08.03.2004Priority date (day/month/year)
28.03.2003International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H01B7/00, H01B7/04, H01B5/00, D07B1/06, D07B1/08, D07B1/10Applicant
GRUPO GENERAL CABLE SISTEMAS, S.A.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Wengeler, H

Telephone No. +31 70 340-1936



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/002512

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23 1(b))
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a type of material
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b format of material
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c time of filing/furnishing
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
- 3 ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/002512

For/carta 22/7/04

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

in formula 304

- ☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
- ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-21
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

For an assessment of novelty and inventive step the following document is presently deemed to be relevant:

D1: US-A-4 550 559

Novelty (Art. 33(2)PCT)

Fig 7 in D1 refers to a cable comprising a central strand and six outer strands around the central strand. The outer strands have polygonal cross-sections having two straight lines and one curved side (col. 5, l. 26- col. 6, l. 68). Cables having no central strand are also possible. In this case the side surfaces (16) of the sheath (20) (see Fig 3) "may converge to a point (col. 3, l. 34-40). In one form of the cable (col. 5, l. 34-45) each strand is made up of a plurality of filaments "of an organic polyamide". However other filament materials can be used as well, such as e.g. steel wres (col. 7, l. 19-29).

Suitable insulating materials comprise polyester, polypropylene, polyurethane etc. (col. 2, l. 36-46). Although not mentioned expressis verbis it can be assumed that the diameter of the filaments/wires are in the same range as claimed in claim 6 of the application.

The actual wording of claims 1-21 does not limit the number of polygonal strands to three such as indicated in Fig 1 of the application. Hence, assemblies comprising more than three polygonal strands such as disclosed in D1 will anticipate the subject-matter of claims 1-21.

In conclusion, the subject-matter of actual claims 1-21 does not meet the requirements of Art. 33(2)PCT.